Amendments

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 28-30 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Please add the following new claims 31-49.

--31. A sustained-release microparticle produced by dissolving in a solvent an active agent and a biodegradable and biocompatible polymer to form an organic phase, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxy-risperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of the foregoing, and extracting the solvent to form microparticles.

32. The sustained-release microparticle of claim 31, wherein the biodegradable and biocompatible polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactic) acid, poly(glycolic) acid, copolymers of the foregoing, poly(aliphatic carboxylic acids), copolyoxalates, polycaprolactone, polydioxonone, poly(ortho carbonates), poly(acetals), poly(lactic acid-caprolactone), polyorthoesters, poly(glycolic acid-caprolactone), polyanhydrides, albumin, casein, and waxes.

33. The sustained-release microparticle of claim 31, wherein the active agent comprises 1 to 90 wt % of the microparticle.

4

~~34.~~ A method for producing sustained-release microparticles, comprising:

dissolving in a solvent an active agent and a biodegradable and biocompatible polymer to form an organic phase, wherein the active agent is selected from the group consisting of risperidone, 9-hydroxy-risperidone, and pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts of the foregoing; and

extracting the solvent to form microparticles.

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~~35.~~ The method of claim ~~34~~, wherein the biodegradable and biocompatible polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactic) acid, poly(glycolic) acid, copolymers of the foregoing, poly(aliphatic carboxylic acids), copolyoxalates, polycaprolactone, polydioxonone, poly(ortho carbonates), poly(acetals), poly(lactic acid-caprolactone), polyorthoesters, poly(glycolic acid-caprolactone), polyanhydrides, albumin, casein, and waxes.

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~~36.~~ The method of claim ~~34~~, wherein the active agent comprises 1 to 90 wt % of the microparticles.

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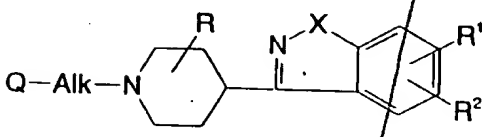
37. A sustained-release microparticle produced by dissolving in a solvent a 1,2-benzazole of the formula



and the pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salts thereof, and extracting the solvent to form microparticles, wherein

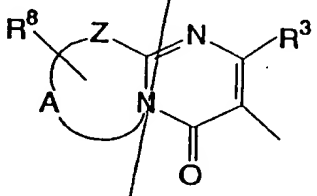
R is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

R^1 and R^2 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, hydroxy, alkyloxy of 1 to 6 carbon atoms, and C alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

X is O or S;

Alk is C_{1-4} alkanediyl; and

Q is a radical of formula



wherein

R^3 is hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

Z is -S-, $-CH_2-$, or $-CR^4=CR^5-$, where R^4 and R^5 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms;

A is a bivalent radical $-CH_2-CH_2-$, $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ or $CR^6=CR^7-$, where R^6 and R^7 are independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halo, amino or alkyl of 1 to 6 carbon atoms; and

R^8 is hydrogen or hydroxyl.

~~38.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~37~~, wherein the biodegradable and biocompatible polymer is selected from the group consisting of poly(lactic) acid, poly(glycolic) acid, copolymers of the foregoing, poly(aliphatic carboxylic acids), copolyoxalates, polycaprolactone, polydioxonone, poly(ortho carbonates), poly(acetals), poly(lactic acid-caprolactone), polyorthoesters, poly(glycolic acid-caprolactone), polyanhydrides, albumin, casein, and waxes.

~~39.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~37~~, wherein the 1,2-benzazole comprises 1 to 90 wt % of the microparticle.

~~40.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~31~~, wherein the microparticle ranges in size from 25 to 180 microns.

~~41.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~37~~, wherein the microparticle ranges in size from 25 to 180 microns.

12 ~~42.~~ The method of claim ~~34~~ 4, wherein the microparticles range in size from 25 to 180 microns.

13 ~~43.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~31~~ 1, wherein the organic phase is combined with an aqueous phase prior to extracting the solvent.

14 ~~44.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~31~~ 1, wherein a quench is used for extracting the solvent.

15 ~~45.~~ The method of claim ~~34~~ 4, further comprising:

combining the organic phase with an aqueous phase prior to extracting the solvent.

16 ~~46.~~ The method of claim ~~45~~ 15, wherein an emulsion is formed by combining the organic phase and the aqueous phase.

17 ~~47.~~ The method of claim ~~34~~ 4, wherein a quench is used for extracting the solvent.

18 ~~48.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~37~~ 7, wherein the organic phase is combined with an aqueous phase prior to extracting the solvent.

19 ~~49.~~ The sustained-release microparticle of claim ~~37~~ 7, wherein a quench is used for extracting the solvent.--

45